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The relations of some of the branches of federal activity to the public health are very direct and obvious. Some of the investigations of the Hygienic Laboratory of the Public Health and Marine Hospital Service, for example, resulting in the tracing of typhoid fever to contaminated milk, are evidently made for the immediate protection of the public. The work of the Meat Inspection Division in preventing the sale of the meat of diseased animals is just as immediate in its purpose. It is evident that a plentiful supply of wholesome food is as essential to the health of a people as any other measure for the prevention or eradication of disease. Well-nourished bodies may resist disease where impoverished ones succumb.

But the bearings of other branches of federal activity upon the public health may not be so obvious to the superficial or casual observer. To such an observer the study of the proper construction and ventilation of a barn may not be as close to the public health as the study of the properties of an antitoxic serum. But in these days of preventive medicine we are willing not alone to be cured of disease, but even to prevent it in almost any way whatsoever—for example, by using only clean milk, from clean, healthy cows, and which obviously can only be kept clean and healthy in barns of sanitary construction and ventilation. The enemy (the pathogenic microorganism in this case) will enter through any gate. All of them must be closed.

The figures quoted above have been taken from Document No. 1,031, House of Representatives (Treasury Department Document No. 2,516), Estimates of Appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1910; also, Treasury Department Document No. 2,533, Statements of Balances, Appropriations and Disbursements of the Government for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1908. Both of these publications are easily obtainable by those interested, at the Library of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

W. N. BERG

WASHINGTON, D. C.

#### A DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

SENATOR OWEN has introduced in the senate a bill establishing a Department of Public Health, which has been read twice and referred to the Committee on Public Health and National Quarantine. The principle of this bill has been approved by the committee of one hundred of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and members of the Association are urged to make efforts to secure the passage of the bill, more especially by writing letters to members of congress endorsing the *principle* of the bill and in favor of a wide extension of the present health work of the national government.

President Taft, in his public addresses, as in his first annual message to congress, both the great political parties in their platforms, the National Grange, the American Federation of Labor, the American Medical Association, the Committee of One Hundred, and others, have put themselves on record as in favor of a broad reform of the existing situation. It is important to impress upon congress that there is a thoughtful and widespread demand in this country for comprehensive reform at this time.

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#### THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

THE summer meeting of the American Chemical Society, to be held in San Francisco, July 12-15, 1910, promises to be one of the pleasantest outings ever enjoyed by the members of the society.

A special train made up of the Santa Fe's finest equipment will leave Chicago on the evening of July 4, arriving at Colorado Springs on the morning of July 6. About six hours will be allowed for a trip to Manitou, the Garden of the Gods or to the top of Pikes Peak. Leaving about one o'clock the train will reach Adamana on July 7 and a half day will be spent in a visit to the Petrified Forests, two of which and possibly three may be examined. Leaving Adamana that night the party will arrive at the Grand Canyon of the Colorado on the morning of July 8 where the day will be spent. Leaving the Grand Canyon that evening the train will arrive at Redlands